

## ***A STUDY ON THE ABILITY OF THE FIRST YEAR STUDENTS OF SMAN 12 PEKANBARU IN USING PRESENT PERFECT TENSE***

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***Abstract :*** *This descriptive research was aimed to find out the ability of the first year students of SMAN 12 Pekanbaru in using Present Perfect Tense. The research data were collected in July 2016. The subject of this research was class X IPS 1 which consisted of 39 students. The data were collected by giving test to the students in the form of words arrangement and completion of blank spaces in passage. The results of the research showed that the first year students of SMAN 12 Pekanbaru in the use of have/has got the mean score of 67, the use of irregular verb got the mean score of 47.94 and the use of regular verb got the mean score of 53.5. Therefore, it can be concluded that the highest ability of the first year students of SMAN 12 Pekanbaru in using Present Perfect Tense was in the use of have/has.*

***Keywords:****Ability, Present Perfect Tense*

## **SEBUAH PENELITIAN MENGENAI KEMAMPUAN SISWA KELAS 1 SMAN 12 PEKANBARU DALAM MENGGUNAKAN PRESENT PERFECT TENSE**

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**Abstrak:** Penelitian deskriptif ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui kemampuan siswa kelas 1 SMAN 12 Pekanbaru dalam menggunakan present perfect tense. Data penelitian dikumpulkan pada bulan juli tahun 2016. Subjek dalam penelitian ini adalah siswa kelas X IPS 1 yang terdiri dari 39 siswa. Data dikumpulkan dengan memberikan tes kepada siswa dalam bentuk menyusun kata dan melengkapi kata yang hilang pada sebuah teks. Hasil dari penelitian ini menunjukkan siswa kelas 1 SMAN 12 Pekanbaru aspek have/has memperoleh nilai rata-rata 67, pada aspek irregular verb rata-rata memperoleh nilai rata-rata 47.94 dan pada aspek reguler verb memperoleh nilai rata-rata 53.5. Oleh karena itu dapat disimpulkan bahwa kemampuan siswa kelas 1 SMAN 12 Pekanbaru yang tertinggi dalam menggunakan present perfect tense adalah pada aspek have/has.

**Kata Kunci:** Kemampuan, Present Perfect Tense

## INTRODUCTION

Grammar is one of the language components that is very important in English learning. It is used in all language skills such as listening, speaking, reading and writing. Without learning grammar properly, students will find difficulties in understanding a language, whether a spoken or written one. As mentioned by Danny D (1993), language, mind and world, the ability to produce and comprehend grammatical sentences is one of fundamental language abilities of speakers. Based on the 2013 curriculum, the tenses are taught to the first year students covering four tenses; they are: present tense, future tense, past tense, and present perfect tense. Present perfect tense is one kind of tenses that the students must learn. It is mentioned in the syllabus of SMAN 12 Pekanbaru, present perfect is in 6th basic competency learned by the students. The text book used by the students is *Bahasa Inggris Untuk SMA-MA/SMK Kelas X* by Otono Setiawan Dj, that present perfect is included in chapter 6 of the book "Have you ever tried it?" (See appendix 6)

Present perfect tense is also used in chapter 10 "I was ...." The topic is recount text. In the syllabus, recount text is in 14th basic competency. Some of recount text used present perfect tense, for example in telling experience of something. This text will be used simple past and present perfect tense. The writer also found the present perfect tense will be learnt by the students in the second year with the material is biography text. In the syllabus, biography text is in 15th basic competency. Hence, present perfect tense is important to be learnt by the first year students because it will be continuous learnt in the next grade.

According to Richards (1986), the present perfect tense in English creates problem for both elementary and advanced learners. It is interpreted frequently as an optional alternative to the simple past tense; this interpretation of its function leads to frequent errors of tense usage. Difficulties with the present perfect tense are often reinforced by faulty teaching. The basic uses of the perfect are outlined and contrasted with the functions of the simple past tense. The present perfect tense is probably one of the most, problematic tenses for the first year students of SMAN 12 Pekanbaru. It is not easy to learn this tense correctly and to be able to use it appropriately. This tense is commonly confused with the simple past by most of the first year students of SMAN 12 Pekanbaru. The differences between the present perfect and simple past are complicated and difficult for the first year students of SMAN 12 Pekanbaru to analyse based on the interview of the teacher.

As it is mentioned above, the students usually confuse the present perfect tense with the simple past. They need to be reminded that the past tense should be used for an action completed in the past at a stated time. The students should also be told that simple past is provided with the specific time expressions such as, *yesterday, last night/year/week, ago, then* etc. Therefore, the writer was interested in conducting a descriptive research to know the first year students' ability of SMAN 12 Pekanbaru in using present perfect tense.

## METHODOLOGY

### Research Design

This is a descriptive research. According to Gay and Airasian (2000) descriptive study determines and describes the way things are. So, descriptive study is one in which information is collected without changing the environment or giving the treatment to the students. The participants of this research were the first year students of SMAN 12 Pekanbaru. For this purpose, class X IPS 1 became the subject of the research which consists of 39 students.

### Instruments Technique and Analysis

This research used quantitative data to find the result of this research. Quantitative data is basically data measured on a numerical scale. In collecting the data, researcher used test. The data was analyzed from students score. The instrument that used in this research were arranging the words and complete the blank words in the passage. Before the test was given to the sample class, the test will be given to the try out class to know the validity of the test. The material of the test was about present perfect tense.

To analyze the data, the researcher used the followings formula:

- a) To know the difficulty level

$$F.V = \frac{R}{N}$$

Where:

F.V = Difficulty level

R = the number of correct answer

N = the number of the students

(Adopted from Heaton, 1975)

- b) To know mean score

$$M = \frac{\sum fx}{N}$$

Where:

M = the mean score in each topic

$\sum fx$  = The sum of the respondents' score

N = the number of the respondents

(Adopted from Hatch and Farhady, 1982)

- c) To know standard deviation

$$SD = \sqrt{\frac{\sum d^2}{N - 1}}$$

Where:

SD = Standard deviation

$\sum d^2$  = The total mean of the test

$N$  = The number of the students

(Adopted Heaton, 1991)

- d) To know the reliability

$$Rii = \frac{N}{n - 1} \left[ 1 - \frac{m(N - M)}{NX^2} \right]$$

Where:

Rii = the reliability of the test

$N$  = the number of items in the test

$M$  = the means score on the test for all the tests

$X^2$  = the standard deviation of all test score

(Adopted from Heaton, 1975)

- e) To know the percentage of the classification of the students' ability in answering question, the following formula could be used:

$$P = \frac{X}{N} \times 100\%$$

Where:

$P$  = Percentage of the students per group/level

$X$  = the number of frequency in one level

$N$  = the number of students

(Adopted from Hatch and Farhady, 1982)

Furthermore, the level of the student's score would be classified into five levels of mastery. The classification could be seen in this following table:

**Table 14: The Classification of Students' Score**

No	Scores	Category
1	81-100	Excellent
2	61-80	Good
3	41-60	Mediocre
4	21-40	Poor
5	0-20	Very Poor

(Adopted from Harris, 1974)

## RESEARCH FINDING

The result of this research was presented by showing the percentage of the students scores and the classification scores of the students' ability in using present perfect tense. The data was analyzed based on students' score in terms of three components. They are have/has, irregular verb and regular verb.

**Percentage of the students' scores**

No	Range score	Frequency	Percentage	Ability	Mean score
1	81-100	2	5.3%	Excellent	55.38
2	61-80	12	30.7%	Good	
3	41-60	17	43.5%	Mediocre	
4	21-40	8	20.5%	Poor	
5	0-20	0	0	Very poor	
	Total	39	100%		

The table describes about mean score of students ability in using present perfect tense. The mean score is 55.38. There are 2 students (5.3%) are in excellent level, 12 students (30.7%) are in good level, 17 students (43.5%) are in mediocre level, 8 students (20.5%) are in poor level, and no student (0%) is in very poor level. It means the students ability in using present perfect tense is in mediocre level.

**The students score classifications in using present perfect tense in terms of have/has.**

No	Range score	Frequency	Percentage	Ability	Mean score
1	81-100	5	13%	Excellent	67
2	61-80	18	46%	Good	
3	41-60	10	26%	Mediocre	
4	21-40	6	15%	Poor	
5	0-20	0	0	Very poor	
	Total	39	100%		

The table describes that 5 students (13%) are in excellent level, 18 students (46%) are in good level, 10 students (26%) are in mediocre level, 6 students (15%) are in poor level and 0 students (0%) is in very poor level. The researcher finds out that the students' mean score in term of have/has is 67. It can be stated that the ability of the first year students of SMAN 12 Pekanbaru in using present perfect tense, in term of have/has is in good level.

**The students score classification in using present perfect tense in terms of irregular verb**

No	Range score	Frequency	Percentage	Ability	Mean score
1	81-100	0	0%	Excellent	47.94
2	61-80	6	15%	Good	
3	41-60	18	46%	Mediocre	
4	21-40	15	38%	Poor	
5	0-20	0	0	Very poor	
	Total	39	100%		

The table describes that no student (0%) is in excellent level, 6 students (15%) are in good level, 18 students (46%) are in mediocre level, 15 students (38%) are in poor level and no student (0%) is in very poor level. The researcher finds out that the students' mean score in term of irregular verb is 47.94. It can be stated that the ability of the first year students of SMAN 12 Pekanbaru in using present perfect tense, in term of irregular verb is in mediocre.

**The students score classification in using present perfect tense in terms of regular verb**

No	Range score	Frequency	Percentage	Ability	Mean score
1	81-100	0	0%	Excellent	53.5
2	61-80	6	16%	Good	
3	41-60	25	64%	Mediocre	
4	21-40	8	20%	Poor	
5	0-20	0	0	Very poor	
	Total	39	100%		

The table describes that no student (0%) is in excellent level, 6 students (16%) are in good level, 25 students (64%) are in mediocre level, 8 students (20%) are in poor level and no student (0%) is in very poor level. The researcher finds out that the students' mean score in term of regular verb is 53.5. It can be stated that the ability of the first year students of SMAN 12 Pekanbaru in using present perfect tense, in term of regular verb is in mediocre.

**The classification of students' mean score in using present perfect tense**

No	The classification of the question	Mean Score	Level of Ability
1	In term of have/has	67	Good
2	In term of irregular verb	47.94	Mediocre
3	In term of regular verb	53.5	Mediocre

The table describes that from 3 components of using present perfect tense, the mean score in term of have/has (67) is classified as good, the mean score in term of irregular verb (47.94) is classified as mediocre, and the mean score in term of regular verb (53.5) is classified as mediocre. From the table also shows that the most difficult aspect in using present perfect tense is using in term of irregular verb, with the mean score 47.94. Besides that the easiest is using in term of have/has, with the mean score is 67.

## **DISCUSSION**

In present perfect tense test, the mean score of the first year students of SMAN 12 Pekanbaru in using present perfect tense is 55.38 and was analysis based on Arikunto (2003) formula. Besides that, based on the research finding of using present perfect tense, there are 2 students got excellent level. It means that they could comprehend the test very well. Then, there are 12 students categorized into good level, it means they have good ability in using present perfect tense. After that there are 17 students categorized into mediocre level, and there are 8 students categorized into poor level. It means that they should practice more in using present perfect tense because it is not reach the standard minimum criteria (KKM) of this school.

The researcher also found out the most difficult aspect in using present perfect tense is in term of irregular verb, with mean 47.94. On the other hand, the easiest aspect of in using present perfect tense in term of have/has, with the mean score is 67.

Based on the explanation above, the researcher analyzes that the first year students of SMAN 12 Pekanbaru cannot use present perfect tense in term of irregular verb well. From all of data, the writer interpreted that the ability of the first year students of SMAN 12 Pekanbaru in using present perfect tense in term of irregular verb falls into mediocre with mean score 47.94. It happened because the students still have less knowledge about the irregular verb, the knowledge about the changing verb from present to past participle. That is why they got low score in term of irregular verb.

Finally, based on the findings were answered the research question about the ability of the first year students of SMAN 12 Pekanbaru in using present perfect tense.

## **CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMENDATION**

Overall, the result of this research showed the ability of first year students of SMAN 12 Pekanbaru in using present perfect tense is the term of have/has, with the mean score 67 and the difficult aspect in using present perfect tense is the term of irregular verb, with the mean score 47.94. There were 2 students get excellent level, 12 students categorized into good level, 17 students categorized into mediocre level, and 8 students categorized into poor level. The researcher also found out the mean score of the students' ability in using present perfect tense is 55.38. It means students' ability in using present perfect tense was in mediocre level and the students can't reach the standard minimum of this school (KKM).

Concerning the conclusion, there are several recommendations that are useful for teaching and learning English. Firstly, for English teacher should have some effort



to develop the students' motivation and encourage them to practice some exercises in using present perfect tense in order to make the students familiar with the materials in term of three indicators especially in term of irregular verb. Secondly considering that the students' ability level in using present perfect tense is in mediocre level, it is recommended that the students should do more practice some exercises about present perfect tense. The last one, the researcher recommended other researcher to continue the research findings in the other kinds of research.

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